

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

1. DURING RECENT HEARINGS ON DEPARTMENT'S FY 1977 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS FOR MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS REGISTERED SPECIAL CONCERN OVER THE HIGH LEVEL OF USG SUPPORT TOWARD THE UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES AS COMPARED TO CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER NATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. WHILE THE BUDGET PROCESS ON FY 1977 SUPPLEMENTALS IS NOT YET COMPLETED, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR 1977 REQUESTS WILL BE MET. HOWEVER, THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS SERVED NOTICE THAT BEFORE THEY COMPLETE CONSIDERATION OF OUR REQUESTS FOR MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FOR FY 1978, THEY WISH TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THE HISTORY OF FUNDING
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PAGE 02 STATE 070695

OF THE UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. IN THIS CONNECTION THE DEPARTMENT (ORM) MUST SUBMIT TO THAT COMMITTEE PRIOR TO MAY 15, 1977 A DETAILED REPORT REFLECTING CONTRIBUTIONS (FROM GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER ENTITIES) AND EXPENDITURES RELATING TO THIS PROGRAM FROM ITS INCEPTION AND CURRENT TO MAY 1, 1977. APART FROM CUMULATIVE FIGURES, DETAILS FOR CY 1976 SHOULD BE BROKEN OUT SEPARATELY AND

BEST POSSIBLE ESTIMATES FOR CY 1977 SHULD BE PROVIDED.

3. MISSION SHOULD GIVE UNHCR MAXIMUM LEAD TIME FOR THIS REQUEST STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR PROVIDING MOST MEANINGFUL REPORT POSSIBLE. DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE REPORT BY COB MAY 6. PLEASE NOTE THAT REPORT SHOULD RELATE TO UNHCR PROGRAM FOR BENEFIT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ONLY AND NOT REPEAT NOT UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR DISPLACED PERSONS WITHIN VIETNAM AND LAOS.

4. IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN THAT USG IS BEARING DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF COST OF UNHCR PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, MISSION SHOULD ONCE AGAIN URGE UNHCR TO TAKE VIGOROUS ACTION TO SECURE GREATER MEASURES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS PROGRAM FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS. WE ARE OF COURSE AWARE OF UNHCR'S RECENT APPEAL FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT THE NEED FOR SPECIAL FOLLOW-UP ACTION SEEMS INDICATED. PERHAPS THE UNHCR SHOULD CONSIDER A SPECIAL ONE DAY SESSION OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE URGENCY OF THIS NEED. WE CLEARLY SEE TROUBLE AHEAD FOR THIS PROGRAM UNLESS UNHCR MANAGES TO PERSUADE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO CONTRIBUTE MORE GENEROUSLY TO IT THEN HAS BEEN THE CASE TO DATE.
CHRISTOPHER

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